

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 15-18, 20, 28, 51 and 52, cancel claim 19 without prejudice and add new claims 53 and 54 so that the claims read as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:

a front body panel having a length defined along a longitudinal direction and opposite side edges;

a rear body panel opposing said front body panel; and

a single fastening member comprising at least two independently moveable and integrally formed tab members each having an engagement portion independently releasably and refastenably engaging said front body panel, wherein said tab members extend laterally inward in the same direction from the same one of said side edges of said front body panel and wherein said tab members are offset from each other in said longitudinal direction, each of said engagement portions having an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said front body panel length, wherein said fastening member comprises a portion fixedly secured to at least one of said front and rear body panels.

16. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 15 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is less than about 90% of said front body panel length.

17. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 16 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 30% and about 80% of said front body panel length.

18. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 17 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 40% and about 60% of said front body panel length.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
a front body panel having a length defined along a longitudinal direction and
opposite side edges;
a fastening member comprising at least two independently moveable tab
members each having an engagement portion independently releasably and
refastenably engaging said front body panel, wherein said tab members extend
laterally inward in the same direction from the same one of said side edges of said
front body panel and wherein said tab members are offset from each other in said
longitudinal direction, each of said engagement portions having an engagement
length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said front
body panel length, The invention of claim 19 wherein said fastening member
comprises a carrier member having a length; and further comprising
a rear body panel comprising a side edge having a length fixedly secured to
said one of said side edges of said front body panel along a seam having a length, said
seam being formed separately from said fastening member.

21. (Original) The invention of claim 20 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said seam.

22. (Original) The invention of claim 21 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 90% of said length of said seam.

23. (Original) The invention of claim 20 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said side edge of said rear body panel.

24. (Original) The invention of claim 23 wherein said length of said carrier

member is at least about 90% of said length of said side edge of said rear body panel.

25. (Original) The invention of claim 20 wherein said carrier member is fixedly secured to said rear body panel.

26. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 20 wherein said front body panel comprises a pair of side portions each defining one of said opposite side edges and a landing member extending between said side portions, wherein said at least two engagement portions are releasably engaged with said landing member, and wherein said carrier member is fixedly secured to said side portions of said front body panel.

27. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 20 said front and rear body panels have substantially the same width.

28. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
a body panel having a length defined a longitudinal direction and opposite side edges; and
a fastening member comprising a single carrier member defining at least two independently moveable and integrally formed tab members extending laterally inward in the same direction from the same one of said side edges of said body panel and an engagement portion disposed on each of said tab members and wherein said tab members are offset from each other in said longitudinal direction, wherein said engagement portions independently releasably and refastenably engage said body panel, and wherein each of said engagement portions has an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said body panel length.

29. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 28 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is less than about 90% of said body panel length.

30. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 29 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 30% and about 80% of said body panel length.

31. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 30 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 40% and about 60% of said body panel length.

32. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 28 wherein said body panel comprises a front body panel, wherein said carrier member comprises a base portion, wherein said tab members extend from said base portion, and wherein said base portion has a length, and further comprising a rear body panel comprising a side edge having a length secured to said one of said side edges of said front body panel along a seam having a length, wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said seam.

33. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 90% of said length of said seam.

34. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said side edge of said rear body panel.

35. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said carrier member is fixedly secured to said rear body panel.

36. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 28 wherein said body panel comprises a landing member, wherein said at least two engagement portions are releasably engaged with said landing member.

37. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said front and rear body panels have substantially the same width.

Claims 38-50 (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
a body panel having a length defined along a longitudinal direction and
opposite side edges; and
a fastening member comprising at least two independently moveable tab
members each having an engagement portion independently releasably and
refastenably engaging said body panel, wherein said tab members extend laterally
inward in the same direction from the same one of said side edges of said front body
panel and wherein said tab members are offset from each other in said longitudinal
direction, each of said engagement portions having an engagement length, wherein
the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said body panel length.
~~The invention of claim 15~~ wherein said fastening fastener member is fixedly secured
to said body panel at a location proximate said one of said side edges and wherein
said at least two independently moveable tab members each have a free edge
positioned laterally inward from said location and said one of said side edges of said
body panel.

52. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
a body panel having a length defined a longitudinal direction and opposite side
edges; and
a fastening member comprising a carrier member defining at least two
independently moveable tab members extending laterally inward in the same direction
from the same one of said side edges of said body panel and an engagement portion
disposed on each of said tab members and wherein said tab members are offset from
each other in said longitudinal direction, wherein said engagement portions

independently releasably and refastenably engage said body panel, and wherein each of said engagement portions has an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said body panel length. The invention of claim 28 wherein said fastener fastening member is fixedly secured to said body panel at a location proximate said one of said side edges and wherein said at least two independently moveable tab members each have a free edge positioned laterally inward from said location and said one of said side edges of said body panel.

53. (New) The absorbent garment of claim 52 wherein said fastening member is fixedly secured to a garment side of said body panel and wherein said engagement portions independently releasably and refastenably engage said garment side of said body panel.

54. (New) The absorbent garment of claim 51 wherein said fastening member is fixedly secured to a garment side of said body panel and wherein said engagement portions independently releasably and refastenably engage said garment side of said body panel.